

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A tap dancing shoe comprising:

a shoe upper;

a rigid sole including a front portion, a rear portion, a top surface, and a bottom surface, said shoe upper being secured to said top surface of said rigid sole to define a shoe cavity;

a tap plate attached to said front portion of said bottom surface of said rigid sole;

a rigid heel attached to said rear portion of said bottom surface of said sole; and

a shock absorbing cushion disposed within said shoe cavity and extending from said front portion of said top surface of said sole to said rear portion of said top surface of said rigid sole, said shock absorbing cushion being permanently secured to said top surface of said rigid sole.

2. (Original) The tap dancing shoe defined in Claim 1 wherein said shock absorbing cushion includes at least one layer of a cushioning material that is thicker at said front portion of said sole than at said rear portion of said sole.

3. (Original) The tap dancing shoe defined in Claim 1 wherein said shock absorbing cushion is constructed using multiple layers of said cushioning material.

4. (Currently Amended) The tap dancing shoe defined in Claim 1 wherein said shock absorbing cushion includes multiple layers of cushioning material that are bonded together.